



July 8, 1964  
NUMBER 1300.7

ASD(M)

## Department of Defense Directive

SUBJECT Training and Education Measures Necessary to Support  
the Code of Conduct

- References:
- (a) Executive Order 10631, 'Code of Conduct for Members of the Armed Forces of the United States,' 17 August 1955
  - (b) Secretary of Defense Memorandum to the Secretaries of the Military Departments, subject as above, 18 August 1955 (hereby cancelled)

### I. PURPOSE

This Directive establishes policies and procedures and provides basic guidance for the development and execution of training, including instructional material, in furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Armed Forces. (reference (a))

### II. CANCELLATION

Reference (b) is hereby cancelled and superseded.

### III. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

This Directive and reference (a) are the basic policy documents for the subject instruction. The Code of Conduct is applicable to all members of the Armed Forces at all times.

### IV. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Directive are to insure that:

- A. The Military Departments maintain energetic, uniform, and continuing training programs in behalf of the Code of Conduct, including training whereby individuals are taught to resist under the varying degrees of hostile interrogation.

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

- B. All training programs in support of the Code of Conduct inculcate in each member of the Armed Forces:
1. A clear and uniform understanding of his obligations, responsibilities, and the behavior expected of him in combat or captivity.
  2. A positive and unswerving acceptance of, belief in, and devotion to the spirit and letter of the Code of Conduct, and the recognition that the Code is a binding military obligation.
  3. An unqualified determination and belief in his ability to oppose and defeat physically, mentally, and morally all enemy efforts against him, his fellow Serviceman, and his country during peacetime, combat, or captivity.
  4. A confidence in his ability to deny information and to resist enemy interrogation, exploitation and indoctrination.
- C. There is a consistency in all Department of Defense Code of Conduct training programs and training materials.

V. POLICIES

- \* 1
- A. The basic policy governing all Code of Conduct instruction and instructional material will be to develop in every member of the Armed Forces a positive attitude that he can and must oppose and defeat absolutely, mentally, and physically, any enemy of his country. To encourage this positive attitude, the central theme of all instruction will feature:
1. Article I - "I am an American fighting man . . . . I am prepared to give my life . . . ."
  2. Article II - "I will never surrender . . . ."
  3. Article VI - "I will never forget I am an American, responsible for my actions . . . ."
- B. All training programs will impress upon every man that prisoner of war compounds (POW status) are ~~but~~ <sup>in many ways</sup> an extension of the battlefield, and that the inherent responsibilities of rank and leadership, military bearing, order and discipline, teamwork and devotion to fellow Servicemen, and the duty to defeat any enemy of our country ~~remain~~ <sup>remain</sup>. ~~time~~. To sustain a positive attitude under conditions of captivity, this instruction will emphasize:
1. Article III - "I will continue to resist . . . . I will make every effort to escape."

Jul 8, 64  
1300.7

2. Article IV - "I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners . . . . If I am senior, I will take command . . . ."
3. Article V - "I am bound to give only name, rank, Service number, and date of birth . . . . I will evade answering further questions . . . ." "I will make no oral or written statements . . . ."

C. Defeatist treatises, writings, and materials will not be used in training programs. On the contrary, the many examples of successful and heroic resistance should be held up as ideals, and will be the focal points of instruction and training on this subject. Such examples should be taken predominantly from our own country's history.

D. Training in the Code of Conduct will be initiated without delay upon entry of an individual into the Armed Forces and continue throughout his military career, providing periodic and progressive indoctrination appropriate to his increasing rank and leadership responsibilities.

VI. GUIDANCE TO BE USED IN DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING PROGRAMS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL IN SUPPORT OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Guidance is set forth in Inclosures 1 and 2.

VII. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower), in coordination with the Secretaries of the Military Departments will insure that all joint training materials conform with the above policies and the guidance contained in the inclosures hereto.
- B. The Secretary of each Military Department will develop training programs and instructional materials in support of this Directive, and will establish a system of exchanging experiences and materials related to the Code of Conduct in furtherance of coordination and improvement of knowledge.

VIII. RECORDS

Receipt of instruction in the Code of Conduct will be recorded in the records of each serviceman.

D

IX. IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective upon publication. Two copies of implementing instructions will be forwarded to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower) within ninety (90) days.

Cyrus Vance

Deputy Secretary of Defense

Inclosures - 2

1. Guidance for Development of Training Programs and Instructional Material in Support of the Code of Conduct
2. Guidance for Instruction in Each Article of the Code of Conduct

1300.7 (Incl 1)  
Jul 8, 64

GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING  
PROGRAMS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL  
IN SUPPORT OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

I. TRAINING PROGRAMS

A. Resistance to interrogation, indoctrination, and exploitation will be developed and hardened by expanding the individual's understanding of the following subject areas:

- (1) The basic truths and advantages of our democratic institutions.
- (2) The moral fiber provided by religious convictions.
- (3) National, military, and unit history and traditions.

B. Each Serviceman will be instructed:

- (1) How to avoid capture, evade detection, and survive when operating in an enemy territory.
- (2) In what to expect from his captors should he have the misfortune to be captured, and how to concentrate all his resources toward escape by himself and others.
- (3) In enemy interrogation methods and techniques.

This instruction should:

- (a) Include description of the adverse physical and mental conditions under which these methods and techniques are effected.
- (b) Explain how resistance can be accomplished under the varying interrogation techniques and degrees of coercion which may be utilized by an enemy in order to assure the Serviceman's ability to adhere to the provisions of subparagraph (c) below.
- (c) Explain that dogmatic refusal to answer a question of an interrogator with: "I will not answer your questions;" "I will not say anymore;" "My orders are to give my name, rank, Service number, and date of birth; I will not give you anything else;" or to claim inability to think, to claim ignorance, to claim inability to talk, and to claim inability to comprehend, constitute adherence to name, rank, Service number, and date of birth.

1300.7 (Incl 1)  
Jul 8, 64

This instruction will be so explicit that each serviceman understands:

1. The consequence of not holding to name, rank, Service number, and date of birth.
2. That the wording of Article V of the Code of Conduct providing that the individual will evade answering questions beyond name, rank, Service number, and date of birth "to the utmost of my ability," is binding on all military personnel. It is a principle that once a man is placed in a position where it is beyond his ability to resist answering further questions, further responses are made entirely on his own responsibility.
- (4) In Prisoner of War Camp Organization, to include a need for overt and covert systems of organization; the physical and mental aspects of captivity with respect to survival techniques and well being; the conviction that informing and voluntary collaboration are treasonable conduct which will result in the rejection of the individual both by his fellow prisoners and by his nation.
- (5) That should he be subjected to extremes of coercion, he will avoid the disclosure of any information, the making of any oral or written statement, or the performance of any act harmful to the interests of the United States or its Allies, detrimental to fellow prisoners, or which will provide aid or comfort to the enemy.
- (6) In the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the treatment of prisoners of war.
- (7) That the Uniform Code of Military Justice applies at all times.

II. \* 2  
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL

- A. The instructional materials developed in the support of Code of Conduct training will be designed around examples of heroism taken from the history of the United States and from the annals of the Armed Forces.
- B. To the maximum extent possible the materials will foster:
  - (1) Faith in one's God and country
  - (2) Pride in Service
  - (3) Confidence in one's ability to withstand hardship, enemy interrogation and indoctrination, and in the fidelity and courage of fellow members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

1300.7 (Incl 2)  
Jul 8, 64

GUIDANCE FOR INSTRUCTION IN EACH ARTICLE  
OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

I

I AM AN AMERICAN FIGHTING MAN, I SERVE IN THE FORCES WHICH GUARD MY COUNTRY AND OUR WAY OF LIFE. I AM PREPARED TO GIVE MY LIFE IN THEIR DEFENSE.

A member of the Armed Forces is always a fighting man. As such, it is his duty to oppose the enemies of the United States regardless of the circumstances in which he may find himself, whether in active participation in combat, or as a prisoner of war.

II

I WILL NEVER SURRENDER OF MY OWN FREE WILL. IF IN COMMAND I WILL NEVER SURRENDER MY MEN WHILE THEY STILL HAVE THE MEANS TO RESIST.

As an individual, a member of the Armed Forces may never voluntarily surrender himself. When isolated and he can no longer inflict casualties on the enemy, it is his duty to evade capture and rejoin the nearest friendly forces.

The responsibility and authority of a commander never extends to the surrender of his command to the enemy while it has power to resist or evade. When isolated, cut off, or surrounded, a unit must continue to fight until relieved, or able to rejoin friendly forces, by breaking out or by evading the enemy.

III

IF I AM CAPTURED I WILL CONTINUE TO RESIST BY ALL MEANS AVAILABLE. I WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ESCAPE AND AID OTHERS TO ESCAPE. I WILL ACCEPT NEITHER PAROLE NOR SPECIAL FAVORS FROM THE ENEMY.

The duty of a member of the Armed Forces to continue resistance by all means at his disposal is not lessened by the misfortune of capture. Article 82 of the Geneva Convention pertains and must be explained. He will escape if able to do so, and will assist others to escape. Parole agreements are promises given the captor by a prisoner of war upon his faith and honor, to fulfill stated conditions, such as not to bear arms or not to escape, in consideration of special privileges, usually release from captivity or a lessened restraint. He will never sign or enter into a parole agreement.

1300.7 (Incl 2)  
Jul 8, 64

IV

IF I BECOME A PRISONER OF WAR, I WILL KEEP FAITH WITH MY FELLOW PRISONERS. I WILL GIVE NO INFORMATION OR TAKE PART IN ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT BE HARMFUL TO MY COMRADES. IF I AM SENIOR, I WILL TAKE COMMAND. IF NOT I WILL OBEY THE LAWFUL ORDERS OF THOSE APPOINTED OVER ME AND WILL BACK THEM UP IN EVERY WAY.

Informing, or any other action to the detriment of a fellow prisoner, is despicable and is expressly forbidden. Prisoners of war must avoid helping the enemy identify fellow prisoners who may have knowledge of particular value to the enemy, and may therefore be made to suffer coercive interrogation.

Strong leadership is essential to discipline. Without discipline, camp organization, resistance, and even survival may be impossible. Personal hygiene, camp sanitation, and care of sick and wounded are imperative. Officers and noncommissioned officers of the United States will continue to carry out their responsibilities and exercise their authority subsequent to capture. The senior line officer or noncommissioned officer within the prisoner of war camp or group of prisoners will assume command according to rank (or precedence) without regard to Service. This responsibility and accountability may not be evaded. If the senior officer or noncommissioned officer is incapacitated or unable to act for any reason, command will be assumed by the next senior. If the foregoing organization cannot be effected, an organization of elected representatives, as provided for in Articles 79-81 Geneva Convention Relative to Treatment of Prisoners of War, or a covert organization, or both, will be formed.

V

WHEN QUESTIONED, SHOULD I BECOME A PRISONER OF WAR, I AM BOUND TO GIVE ONLY NAME, RANK, SERVICE NUMBER, AND DATE OF BIRTH. I WILL EVADE ANSWERING FURTHER QUESTIONS TO THE UTMOST OF MY ABILITY. I WILL MAKE NO ORAL OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS DISLOYAL TO MY COUNTRY AND ITS ALLIES OR HARMFUL TO THEIR CAUSE.

When questioned, a prisoner of war is required by the Geneva Convention and permitted by this Code to disclose his name, rank, service number, and date of birth. A prisoner of war may also communicate with the enemy regarding his individual health or welfare as a prisoner of war and, when appropriate, on routine matters



1300.7 (Incl 2)  
Jul 8, 64

of camp administration. Oral or written confessions true or false, questionnaires, personal history statements, propaganda recordings and broadcasts, appeals to other prisoners of war, signatures to peace or surrender appeals, self criticisms or any other oral or written communications on behalf of the enemy or critical or harmful to the United States, its allies, the Armed Forces or other prisoners are forbidden.

It is a violation of the Geneva Convention to place a prisoner of war under physical or mental torture or any other form of coercion to secure from him information of any kind. If, however, a prisoner is subjected to such treatment, he will endeavor to avoid by every means the disclosure of any information, or the making of any statement or the performance of any action harmful to the interests of the United States or its allies or which will provide aid or comfort to the enemy. Under Communist Bloc reservations to the Geneva Convention, the signing of a confession or the making of a statement by a prisoner is likely to be used to convict him as a war criminal under the laws of his captors. This conviction has the effect of removing him from the prisoner of war status and according to this Communist Bloc device denying him any protection under terms of the Geneva Convention and repatriation until a prison sentence is served.

## VI

I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT I AM AN AMERICAN FIGHTING MAN, RESPONSIBLE FOR MY ACTIONS, AND DEDICATED TO THE PRINCIPLES WHICH MADE MY COUNTRY FREE. I WILL TRUST IN MY GOD AND IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, whenever appropriate, continue to apply to members of the Armed Forces while prisoners of war. Upon repatriation, the conduct of prisoners will be examined as to the circumstances of capture and through the period of detention with due regard for the rights of the individual and consideration for the conditions of captivity. A member of the Armed Forces who becomes a prisoner of war has a continuing obligation to remain loyal to his country, his Service and his unit.

The life of a prisoner of war is hard. He must never give up hope. He must resist enemy indoctrination. Prisoners of war who stand firm and united against the enemy will aid one another in surviving this ordeal.